

A
 REVIEW
 OF THE
 STATE
 OF THE
 BRITISH NATION.

Tuesday, March 9. 1708.

WE have had several Expresses and Accounts since my last, about the intended Invasion of the French, and we are now told directly, we need not give ourselves any Trouble to discourse of their coming this way, or coming that way; but that we may expect them if they come at all, they will come in Scotland; nay, the French King himself makes no Secret of it, but lets all the World know, that he has dismiss'd the young Gentleman upon this Expedition, with a Desire to see him no more.

Any Body will believe, his most Christian Majesty spoke sincerely, when at parting he gave the young Enterprizer his Blessing in these Oracular Words, *I wish I may never see you more*; I do not say it is true, that he spoke these Words at parting, but as all

our Accounts agree in reporting it, I take Notice of it as true, and only say, let the Words be taken in all the *double Entendre*: you can form, his Majesty was in the right; and tho' I am none of those that think our selves so certain of Conquest as to wish him on Shoar in this Island; yet without National Vanity I believe I may say, if he does get on Shoar, 'tis odds, whether he ever sees France again or no.

And after all, I am of the Opinion, the King of France is not so weak as to expect by this Attempt, to restore Tyranny to this Island, and much less to Scotland, where after all that has been said to make us believe, the Scots are universally disaffected, in which I shall pretend to convince you they are abused; they have had such Surfeits of the Tyranny and Blood of this very Generation,

that you need not doubt but on the Appearance of the *French* there, you will find a Party strong enough, and ready enough to shew their Faces in Opposition to any *French* Attempt of Re-establishing that Tyranny and Superstition among them.

I remember, when the Duke of Monmouth invaded King James, and landed in the West, a Proclamation of five thousand Pound Reward for the apprehending him, did more to the effectual seizing his Person, even among those that otherwise would have been willing enough to have let him escape, than all the Pursuit of the King's Troops could have done. And on the other hand, the laying hold of the principal Citizens and Gentlemen, who were but in the least thought to favour the Interest of the Invaders, was a mortal Stab to the Design, and baulk'd all the Schemes laid for a Conjunction with the Duke of Monmouth.

Upon the *French* Invasion, if it should be thought fit by the Government, but to take the same Measures, we should soon see the Effect upon our Northern Jacobites.

Indeed the present Government has a great deal of Reason to expect from a Nation, whose Eyes are open, that they should endeavour to lay hold of this Invader without a Reward; but if her Majesty should be pleased to lay ten thousand Pounds as the Price of that Gentleman's Corps, not but that it may be a great Deal more than is worth, dare say, there are thousands in Britain, that now talk very high for his Interest, would be the first to surrender him and his Cause too, into the Hands of the first Man they met, that could but pay the Money—Nay, I believe, I do no Body any Wrong, if I say, he brings many a Man along with him, that would sell him and his Cause for Half the Money.

'Tis in the Nature of their Party to forsake their Friends; 'tis in the Blood of a *Tory* to sell his Cause; they will rail for it, and swear for it fast enough, abuse their Neighbours, and be ever blustering for their

Cause; but we never found they car'd for Fighting—In all the Advantages that ever were given them, we never found them for venturing their Bones——Let but the QUEEN offer 10000*l.* for the young Spark, I warrant, if he is brought in, a *Tory* does it——If ever he is bought by his Enemies, I warrant him sold by his Friends.

—They that know the Power of ten thousand Pounds, and how much that Party stand in need of such a Sum; that know the Influence of Money upon Men of no Principles, will easily agree with me in this.

—Then to apply it, let them but tell me of what Principle is a *Jacobite*——Understand me right too; by a *Jacobite* under this Circumstance, I mean a swearing *Jacobite*, a *Jacobite* that swears and conforms to the present Government, and yet remains a *Jacobite*; If ever this Prince, as they would call him, trusts them, and this 10000*l.* comes in their Way, it must be own'd, he is fitter to go to *Bushyham*, than to *Scotland*——For tell me, Gentlemen *Tories*, if ye can, how can it but be expected, that they that sell their Principles, should sell their Prince? I break no Charity therefore in telling the World, that these are the first Men that will abandon either the Cause or the Man, and let them show me a *Tory* of this Sort, that ever withstood such a Temptation, if they can.

The other Step of taking up Persons suspected, I need say little to, the Parliament being already upon that Affair, which must be legally done with Respect to the *Habeas Corpus* Act; but let that but go on, and Forty or Fifty of the Chief Heads of Clans and known *Jacobites* in the North be secur'd, he may come when he pleases, he'll meet with but cold Entertainment in the North of Britain, in spite of all the imaginary Discontents which are suggested by us upon that People, of whom we are very forward to be scandalously abusive.

I shall give you my Thoughts about the *French* Spectacles they are bringing over in my next.

MISCELLANEA.

I Have been frequently solicited to speak in Publick, since this Session of Parliament began, to the so often controverted Point of Relief of Debtors, in order, if possible, to convince the Nation, how necessary it is once for all to relieve the excessive Burthen of distress'd Families, that languish under the Cruelty of merciless Creditors; but knowing what an invidious Office I should enter upon, I have hitherto declin'd it, not at all as a thing necessary to be done, and which I think, all Men of Honesty and Compassion wish to have done, but as a thing which has so often been attempted, but has met with such Opposition from the Power of those Men, whose Cruelty makes it the more necessary, that I saw no Hopes of bringing it to pass. However, at the renewed Entreaty of the many many Objects of National Tenderness, which are every Day mourning in our Streets, I have resolv'd once more to attempt the almost impossible Work of opening the Eyes of them, that are wilfully blind.

And before I enter into this Labyrinth of Strife, I must clear up the general Scandal, that I know will be against the Argument, I mean the Circumstances of the Author.

I am not sham'd to own, I have been to be reckon'd in the Number of the Unfortunate, and that I have more than once attempted to clear my self from the Inexorable, by the publick Lenity of the Law, and I hope have in a good Measure effected; but whether it be so or no, I think, it can no way affect this Case before me, in which I pretend to claim no Advantage, and I hope, stand in need of none.

Again, I expect a great Clamour at Frauds committed by Bankrupts, which render them unworthy of the Nation's Compassion; much Noise of which was made at the Bar of the House of Lords two Year ago, but nothing of Fact prov'd, neither is it an Argument against the Relief of the honest Man of Misfortune, if there had.

Some Cries also began to be made against the Honesty of the Surrender of those People, who came off by that Act—Tho' I hear not of one Man prosecuted for Perjury upon it, nor indeed ought such a Complaint to move any reasonable Man, since the Law is so severe on the Offender, as to reach his Life; and we all know, the Complainers want no Cruelty to prosecute; till then some Proof of Fact is made, and some Criminal detected, we may very justly conclude, it is without Ground.

Perhaps it may be expected, I should say something to the barbarous Attempts of this Nature made upon my self— When absent and remote, I was not able to answer, and could not imagine a thing so villainous could have enter'd into the Hearts of the worst Enemies I had— But I shall convince the World, I do not think it worth a Moment's Concern, and I believe, no wise Man but would agree in this, that my having at first in Print answer'd it, and challenged the bidden Accusers to appear and prove it, promising to come up and surrender my self to Justice upon first Notice, was my sufficient Vindication—But above all, my having been now above two Months among you, and fairly shown my Face, the Accusers having not thought fit to say one Word to it, nor let me know who they are, that I might do my self Justice upon them, is, I think, a sufficient Vindication to me, and I believe, no honest Man need desire a better Testimony.

To return therefore to the Case in hand, I meet with no Man so barbarous, but allow, when a Debtor is willing to surrender his All, and has actually done so, he has a Title to the Compassion of every honest Man; National Justice should, and I am sure, National Policy will, if rightly pursued, concern themselves to deliver him.

Justice should, the Text is plain; if he is willing to pay, why shouldst thou take him from under him? where by the way might be very well form'd an Argument; Why he that